



Using the 1852 California State Census

in the

**California History Room
California State Library**

The first federal census conducted in California was taken in 1850, while the Gold Rush was in full swing. Adventurers were pouring into the state, and they were very mobile in their search for the next paydirt. As a result, the accuracy of the count was questionable. Also, records for the counties of Contra Costa, San Francisco, and Santa Clara were lost or destroyed.

To obtain a more reliable picture of the population, the State of California conducted its own census in 1852, the only one in the state's history. The original census is housed at the State Archives, but it is available on microfilm in the California History Room. Because the microfilm is difficult to read, the Daughters of the American Revolution of California created a transcription of the census, as well as an index. The California History Room has both print and microfilm copies of the transcription.

- Original census microfilm, M/F 144, filed in census microfilm drawers
Filmed by the Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City. Some parts are difficult to read, and the film lacks the following counties: Colusa, Sutter, Marin.
 - Reel 1. Butte, Calaveras, Contra Costa, El Dorado (Pt. 1).
 - Reel 2. El Dorado (Pt. 2), Los Angeles, Mariposa, Klamath, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, Nevada.
 - Reel 3. Placer, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco (Pt. 1).
 - Reel 4. San Francisco (Pt. 2), San Joaquin (Pt. 1).
 - Reel 5. San Joaquin (Pt. 2), San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Trinity, Tulare.
 - Reel 6. Tuolumne, Yolo, Yuba.

This microfilm is available through interlibrary loan.

- DAR transcription, print copy. Shelved in the Genealogy Alcove. The transcription includes an index to each volume (not each county)

Vol. 1. Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa.
 Vol. 2. El Dorado.
 Vol. 3. Klamath, Los Angeles, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa.
 Vol. 4. Nevada, Placer.
 Vol. 5. San Diego, Sacramento
 Vol. 6. San Francisco (Pt. 1).
 Vol. 7. San Francisco (Pt. 2).
 Vol. 8. San Francisco (Pt. 3), San Joaquin.
 Vol. 9. San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta.
 Vol. 10. Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Sutter, Trinity, Tulare.
 Vol. 11. Tuolumne.
 Vol. 12. Yolo, Yuba (Pt. 1).
 Vol. 13. Yuba (Pt. 2).

- DAR transcription microfilm, M/F 43, filed in census microfilm drawers

Reel 1:

Vol. 1. Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa.
 Vol. 2. El Dorado.
 Vol. 3. Klamath, Los Angeles, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa.
 Vol. 4. Nevada, Placer.
 Vol. 5. San Diego, Sacramento.

Reel 2:

Vol. 5. Sacramento (index).
 Vol. 6. San Francisco (Pt. 1).
 Vol. 7. San Francisco (Pt. 2).
 Vol. 8. San Francisco (Pt. 3), San Joaquin.
 Vol. 9. San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta.

Reel 3:

Vol. 10. Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Sutter, Trinity, Tulare.
 Vol. 11. Tuolumne.
 Vol. 12. Yolo, Yuba (Pt. 1).
 Vol. 13. Yuba (Pt. 2).

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